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LETTER DATED 25 MAY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CAPE VERDE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the request of my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of the communiqué published on 18 May 1999 by the States members of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries of which Cape Verde is currently chairman.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of said document circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) José Luis MONTEIRO
Ambassador

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Annex

[Original: Portuguese]

Communiqué of the Member States of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries, issued at Lisbon on 18 May 1999

The member States of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP) have followed with particular concern the recent events in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau that resulted in many casualties and substantial destruction of infrastructure and property, a state of affairs which they deeply regret. They reaffirm their fraternal solidarity with the people of Guinea-Bissau.

They take note of the commitments undertaken publicly by the interim President of the Republic, the Military Junta and the Government of National Unity, according to which they pledged to fully respect democracy, human rights and the rule of law, which are guiding principles of CPLP, and they encourage them to further the implementation of concrete measures towards the fulfilment of those commitments.

They underline in this context the importance of holding of free and fair legislative and presidential elections, which are scheduled to take place on 28 November 1999, with a view to re-establishing normal institutional life.

They call upon the people, the State organs, the Military Junta and the political parties of Guinea-Bissau to continue to show magnanimity, guaranteeing the physical integrity of those who have surrendered and granting them dignified and fair treatment, in accordance with the existing law and the spirit of national reconciliation. In this context, they take note that the Portuguese Government has granted political asylum to General João Bernardo Vieira, in accordance with the norms and principles of international law.

They reiterate the willingness of CPLP to continue to support national reconciliation, the strengthening of democracy and the reconstruction of Guinea-Bissau, and call upon the international community to keep its commitment to support the programme presented by the Government of National Unity during the emergency round table recently held in Geneva.

They express their appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in pursuit of common goals in the framework of the peace process in Guinea-Bissau.